consequence of the drought of the previous year. However, the import bill on these items is likely to come down because of the good performance of the agricultural sector last year. It is Government's constant endeavour to minimize imports.

**Steps to improve law and order situation in Punjab**

1960. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what effective steps Government have taken in the last three monthe to deiuse the situation in Punjab;

(b) whethtr there has been any improvement in the law and order situation as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The security measures have been tightened up. The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Punjab constituted by the Prime Minister under the Chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister has studied all aspects of Punjab problem and has also held two rounds of discussions with representatives of Political parties at Chandigarh on 12th April, 1989 and at Delhi on 5th May, 1989. A number of measures which were announced by the Prime Minister on March 3, 1939 with a view to bring normalcy in the State have been implemented. These steps have succeeded to an appreciable extent in isolating the extremists and strengthening the determination of the people to figh the menance and extending cooperation to the security forces in dealing with them.

**Involvement of foreign agency in recent rios in Jammu and Kashmir**

1961. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the involvement of any foreign agency has been established in the recent communal riots in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is some evidence of terrorists receiving support from sources outside India. According to information available a number of persons from Valley have received training and supply of arms, ammunition, explosives, funds etc. for creating disorder and destabilisation in the State.

**News-item captioned "customs cheat electrician for a reward"**

1962. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Custom Police cheat electrician for a reward' which appeared in the Afternoon Despatch and Courier, Bombay of 28th March, 1989; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA: (a) yes, Sir.

(b) One Shri Minoo Khodabadna Irani, who was identified as the informer by the Police in the case of seizure of contraband watches and watch movements worth Rs. 6,27,300/- on 23rd/24th March, 1985 at

Bombay has since been sanctioned and paid a reward of Rs. 40,000/-. The reward is purely an ex-gratia payment and is granted on the absolute discretion of the competent authority and cannot be claimed as a matter of right. In determining the reward the competent authority keeps in mind various factors such as the specificity and accuracy of the information, the risk and trouble undertaken, the extent and nature of help rendered by the informer, whether the information gives clues to persons involved in smuggling or their associates etc., before determining the amount of reward to be given in a particular case. In the present case, the competent authority has concluded that Rs. 40,000/- was adequate as reward to Shri Minoo Khodabadna Irani.

**Funds to Andhra Pradesh for construction of court buildings**

1963. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of funds allotted to Andhra Pradesh Government for the construction of new court buildings during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount during 1989-90 keeping in view the old and damaged court buildings; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) A sum of Rs. 249.49 lakhs was allocated for construction of court buildings during 1985—89.

(b) and (c) The Ninth Finance Commission has recommended an outlay of Rs. 165 lakhs for 1989-90.

**Allegations against United Bank of India Branch Tripura**

1964. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the United Bank of India has received any representation from the Leader of the Opposition, Tripura Assembly, against the alleged corrupt and illegal practices adopted in Tripura by the branches while identifying the beneficiaries and issuing loans under the blanket schemes of loan mela; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the said representation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). United Bank of India have reported that they received a letter dated 5th November, 1988 from Shri Nripen Chakraborty, Leader of the Opposition, Tripura Legislative Assembly. In this letter he had drawn attention to the judgement of Guwahati High Court and Reserve Bank of India's guidelines and ground rules to be observed while selecting beneficiaries and sought clarification on the position of the bank as the Lead Bank in conducting crash credit delivery programme in November, 1988.

The Chairman of the United Bank of India, in his letter dated 18th November, 1988 addressed to Shri Nripen Chakraborty clarified that banks in Tripura, in conducting the crash credit delivery programme on an on going basis for the benefit of the poor are only acting in the public interest and these programmes are not at all violative of the observations of the High Court of Guwahati. He had further pointed out that Crash Credit Delivery Programmes are being periodically organised in the State on the basis of modalities worked out in consultation with State Level Bankers' Committee. In so far as banks are concerned, processing of the proposals and the final disposal of the ap-